



Michael Lofton

**TOP 10** ***LIES***  
**ABOUT POPE FRANCIS**  
***EXPOSED***



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## **Introduction**

Nearly every day a new controversy about Pope Francis erupts on social media. This has undoubtedly confused many people - Catholics and non-Catholics alike. In order to help those who wish to know if the most common headlines they read about Pope Francis are accurate, I've compiled the top ten fictional claims made about Pope Francis and then offered a brief presentation of the facts, along with additional resources for a more in-depth consideration.

Michael Lofton

Feast of Theodosius the Cenobiarch 2024

# Pope Francis Says Homosexuality is Not a Sin

## **The Fiction:**

One of the [first controversies](#) surrounding Pope Francis concerns his comment “who am I to judge” in relation to homosexual persons. Many twisted these words to mean that he does believe same-sex acts are sinful.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis actually said: “If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?”

He [later explained](#) what he meant by this, saying:

On that occasion I said this: If a person is gay and seeks out the Lord and is willing, who am I to judge that person? I was paraphrasing by heart the Catechism of the Catholic Church where it says that these people should be treated with delicacy and not be marginalized. I am glad that we are talking about 'homosexual people' because before all else comes the individual person, in his wholeness and dignity. And people should not be defined only by their sexual tendencies: let us not forget that God loves all his creatures and we are destined to receive his infinite love. I prefer that homosexuals come to confession, that they stay close to the Lord, and that we pray all together. You can advise them to pray, show goodwill, show them the way, and accompany them along it.

### **Additional Resources:**

See [here](#) where Pope Francis confirms that same-sex acts are sinful.

# Pope Francis Said Don't Proselytize!

## **The Fiction:**

It is often claimed that Pope Francis has forbidden evangelism of non-Catholics and non-Christians to Catholicism.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis explicitly insists that Catholics **MUST** evangelize people to the Catholic Church. He opposes proselytism, which he defines as using coercive means to pressure a person to convert. This is why he says “evangelism, yes, proselytism, no”

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for an in-depth video of Pope Francis on evangelism vs. proselytism.
- See [here](#) for what critics of Pope Francis **WON'T** tell you about Pope Francis on evangelism.

# Pope Francis Said Hell Isn't Real

## **The Fiction:**

Pope Francis [is said](#) to have denied the eternity of hell in an interview with the Atheist Eugenio Scalfari. He is quoted by Scalfari as saying: "They are not punished. Those who repent obtain God's forgiveness and take their place among the ranks of those who contemplate him, but those who do not repent and cannot be forgiven disappear. A hell doesn't exist, the disappearance of sinning souls exists."

## **The Facts:**

Scalfari is famous for not taking notes in his interview, so the Vatican rightly [clarified](#):

The Holy Father Francis recently received the founder of the daily newspaper La Repubblica in a private meeting for Easter, without however issuing any interview. The reference made by the author of today's article is the fruit of his reconstruction, in which the precise words pronounced by the Pope are not quoted. Therefore, no extract from the aforementioned article should be considered as a faithful transcription of the words of the Holy Father.

Pope Francis has made several statements affirming the eternity of hell and the real possibility of going there. He has [said](#):

The danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is hell.



He has also [said](#): “Convert, there is still time for not ending up in hell. It is what is waiting for you if you continue on this path.” Thus, it is clear Scalfari must have misunderstood something the pope said.

### **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for a video examining Pope Francis’ view on hell.

# Pope Francis Worshipped a Pachamama Idol

## **The Fiction:**

Pope Francis is often accused of worshiping an idol of the pagan goddess Pachamama in the Vatican Gardens.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis did not worship an idol in the Vatican Gardens ceremony. Instead, he allowed for a Catholic prayer service in the Vatican Gardens to take place and this service included an image of Our Lady of the Amazon (the Virgin Mary). The video of the event explicitly calls the image “Our Lady of the Amazon.” The ceremony itself had nothing to do with Pachamama.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for an in-depth video explaining the Vatican Gardens ceremony.
- See [here](#) for an in-depth video detailing the unfolding of this artificial scandal in the media, along with Pope Francis’ comments about the image.

# Pope Francis Teaches God Wills the Diversity of Religions

## **The Fiction:**

It is often claimed that Pope Francis said that God wills the diversity of religions. This is then understood to mean that God doesn't care if a person is a Christian or not, or that all religious paths lead to the same eternal outcome. In other words, this is often understood to be an instance where Pope Francis teaches relativism or universalism.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis [said](#):

The pluralism and the diversity of religions, colour, sex, race and language are willed by God in His wisdom, through which He created human beings.

There is a distinction between God's passive will and his active will. God's *passive will* refers to God's allowance for something, even if he doesn't agree with its morality (e.g. a murderer who murders an innocent person). God's *active will* refers to God's own actions, which are always morally good (e.g. God chose to become incarnate 2,000 years ago). Pope Francis clarified that his statements about God's will and the diversity of religions refers to God's passive will, not his active will. In other words, God passively allows for the diversity of religions, but it is not something he personally created.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for the full document where Pope Francis made these comments.
- See [here](#) for an in-depth video explaining what Pope Francis actually said.
- See [here](#) for a video on Pope Francis' clarification on this controversy.

# Pope Francis Affirms Communion for Adulterers

## **The Fiction:**

Many people have claimed that Pope Francis' Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* allows people who are living in mortal sin through adultery to receive Holy Communion without going to confession.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis has [explicitly said](#):

We know that one who has committed a serious sin should not approach Holy Communion without having first obtained absolution in the sacrament of reconciliation.

*Amoris Laetitia* itself nowhere allows a person in mortal sin to receive the Eucharist without confession.

Pope Francis has also [said](#) that the *Amoris Laetitia* confirms that an adulterer in mortal sin must go to confession first before receiving the Eucharist.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for Pope Francis' response to Dubia (questions) about *Amoris Laetitia*
- See [here](#) for an in-depth examination of *Amoris Laetitia*

# Pope Francis Teaches the Death Penalty is Intrinsically Evil

## **The Fiction:**

It is often claimed that Pope Francis taught that the death penalty is “intrinsically evil” - meaning the death penalty is always sinful to impose regardless of the time and circumstances. They then assert that his view is in conflict with the Old and New Testament that admit the allowance of the death penalty.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis did not say the death penalty is “intrinsically evil” but that it is “inadmissible” and the context was in reference to our contemporary society, not for all times and circumstances. In other words, he did not change the doctrine of the church on the death penalty but implemented a particular discipline.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) and [here](#) for two videos on whether Pope Francis changed the teaching of the Church on the death penalty.
- See [here](#) for a take on capital punishment and the Catholic Magisterium.
- See [here](#) for historical precedence for Pope Francis’ discipline on the death penalty.

# Pope Francis Allows for Blessing Same-Sex Unions

## **The Fiction:**

Pope Francis is said to have approved the blessing of same-sex unions/relationships in the 2023 document *Fiducia Supplicans*.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis has explicitly rejected blessing same-sex “unions” both in [2021](#) and in [2023](#).

Pope Francis’s 2023 document *Fiducia Supplicans* allows for the blessing of same-sex persons but not their relationship. By blessing, Francis does not mean approval but a supplication to receive grace to live a holier life and to conform to God’s commands that requires same-sex attracted persons to no longer engage in same-sex acts. This is why a [clarifying document](#) from the Vatican confirmed that same-sex couples (two persons in a disordered relationship) can be blessed (not approval but a supplication), but their union/relationship cannot be blessed because it is sinful.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for an in-depth video presentation on the 2023 document *Fiducia Supplicans*.
- See [here](#) for a video examination of the clarifying document by the Vatican.

# Pope Francis Participated in a Pagan Canadian Ceremony

## **The Fiction:**

Pope Francis is said to have participated in a pagan ceremony in his 2022 Canada visit.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis was invited by a governmental official to a meeting during his visit to Canada in 2022. He had no control over the agenda of the event and was not told in advance in any detail what would take place. He did not participate in any pagan ceremonies.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for a detailed video analysis of the meeting.



# Pope Francis Wants Women's Ordination

## **The Fiction:**

Pope Francis is often said to be willing to allow for women's ordination.

## **The Facts:**

Pope Francis had [put into canon law](#) an automatic excommunication for anyone attempting to ordain a woman. Canon 1379 § 3 states: "Both a person who attempts to confer a sacred order on a woman, and the woman who attempts to receive the sacred order, incur a latae sententiae [automatic] excommunication reserved to the Apostolic See; a cleric, moreover, may be punished by dismissal from the clerical state."

Pope Francis has repeatedly [reiterated](#) that the church's position on ordination reserved to males alone cannot be changed.

Pope Francis has also [confirmed](#) that the teaching on a male only priesthood is "definitive" in nature.

## **Additional Resources:**

- See [here](#) for a video of Pope Francis' view on women's ordination.

# About the Author



Michael is a graduate of Christendom College Graduate School of Theology where he received his Master of Arts in Theological Studies (Cum Laude) in 2018. He is currently working on a doctorate in Theology with Pontifex University and is writing a dissertation on the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Michael is the founder of the Reason & Theology show, where he has interviewed many of the leading

figures in contemporary theology. He has worked with Catholic Answers as a contributor and also appeared on EWTN, SiriusXM Radio, Radio Maria. He is also the author of Answering Orthodoxy and Church Chaos.

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